

**Falls Church Environmental Services Council
Approved Minutes
City Hall – Training Room
Thursday, January 18, 2007**

Present: Melissa Teates, Ralph Yatsko, Nancy Lee, Sam Beatty, Kathy Allan (staff liaison), Juanita Bowman, Tricia Samora (staff)

Absent: Joe Gerrity

Guest: Bill Schellstede

Note: Ida Peterson resigned her position on the ESC effective 1/17/2007.

1. Chair Ralph Yatsko called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.
2. Minutes for November 2006 were approved as amended.

Action Items

3. Climate Protection Initiative Task Force

Melissa gave an overview of the task force's 42-page draft report. The report includes information on the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the Cool Cities Initiative, ICLEI, and how surrounding jurisdictions have adopted or interpreted these initiatives. She indicated that the task force would most likely recommend to City Council that the City adopt ICLEI, since it does not require the use of 1990 greenhouse gas emission statistics as a baseline. Related to this, Kathy mentioned the January 29 Council of Governments (COG) Climate Change Roundtable to be held in Washington, DC. She and Ralph plan to attend.

Action: Melissa said that the task force would try to complete the report by the end of January.

4. Bike Friendly City

Ralph reported that he contacted Howard Herman, City Director of Parks and Recreation, and Howard agreed to do an inventory of bike racks in the City. Ralph has not yet had a response from Howard. Ralph said that the Transportation Committee has offered to let the ESC look at its report that addresses making the City more bike friendly.

Action: Ralph will check with Wendy Block-Sanford to get a copy of the Transportation Committee report.

5. Residential Code Amendments

Melissa reported that Ordinance 1799, focusing on residential height requirements, was passed by City Council. She noted that the City is putting together an RFP in order to hire a consultant to review the City's zoning ordinances.

Action: None.

Update/Discussion Items

6. 2007 Priority Actions

- **Solid Waste Management (SWM)**

Hazardous Waste Collection

Kathy reported that hazardous waste collection is a New Initiative item in the FY 2008 City budget.

Action: *The ESC will continue to monitor this SWM issue to ensure that it is addressed in future City fiscal planning.*

- **Energy Efficiency**

Green Building Policy

Ralph reported that City staff is continuing to receive education on green building standards and that City Council has asked staff for a green buildings briefing.

Action: *Ralph suggested that the ESC to be proactive in providing more direct input to City staff on green building issues.*

Change a Light Campaign

Kathy talked with City resident and energy efficiency consultant Laurie Huber about an “exchange-a-coupon for fluorescent light bulbs program/campaign” for City residents and businesses. A discussion followed on how to approach local businesses about the program.

Action: *Kathy will begin working on the program/campaign when the leaf mulch campaign is completed.*

- **Watershed Management**

Watershed Management Plan

Melissa presented VPIS’s January 15, 2007 letter on watershed management practices to City Council and asked the ESC if it wanted to send a similar letter to the Council. Ralph said that a year ago he and then City resident Dave Eckert reviewed the 1996 watershed management master plan developed for the City by Woodward-Clyde Consultants. Dave concluded that about 75 percent of the study was still useful.

Action: *Ralph will look for notes from Dave Eckert’s review and e-mail these to Kathy (if found). Kathy will review the notes and report on them at the February 15, 2007 ESC meeting.*

Green Roof Demonstration Project

The topic was tabled due to Joe Gerrity’s absence.

Daylighting

Melissa commented that the only chance for stream daylighting in the City at the current time appears to be the Coe Branch that runs through the Hamlett Track.

Action: *Kathy will bring a City stream map to the February 15, 2007 ESC meeting for the ESC to review and discuss stream daylighting possibilities.*

7. Special Pickup and Yard Waste Set-out Requirements – Code Amendment Update

Kathy mentioned that special pickup and yard waste set-out requirements are not on City Manager Wyatt Shields’ list of priority items to be presented to City Council.

Action: *As per the ESC’s suggestion, Kathy will continue to ask Wyatt to include special pickup and yard waste set-out requirements on his priority list to be sent to City Council.*

8. Other Business

Green Builders, Realtors, Auditors, Mortgages

Kathy distributed a *Newsweek* article on how builders are trying to promote themselves as “green.” She posed the question as to whether the City and the surrounding area have green builders, realtors, auditors, and mortgage lenders.

Action: *Nancy and Ralph volunteered to make inquiries about local green builders, realtors, auditors, and mortgage lenders. It was suggested that information on these topics could be placed on the Falls Church Environmental website (Note: This is private website and listings would not mean endorsement of individual businesses by the City).*

Healthy Habitat Month at the Library

Kathy said that Mia Musolino, chair of the Healthy Habitat Task Force, reported that the Task Force will have two children's story hours in March 2007 at the City library. There will also possibly be two adult lectures, one on native plants by an Alexandria plant nursery, Nature By Design, and one by City Urban Forester Jeremy Edwards on invasive plants. A listing of books on these topics may also be compiled for interested City residents. Task Force member Sandy Tarpinian is to be thanked for organizing and implementing these educational, community events. Kathy also mentioned that the Task Force is suggesting a Healthy Habitat First Friday event in the spring to be tied to Earth Day. A discussion followed and the ESC suggested May's First Friday would be a good evening for this event.

Action: Kathy will contact Mia to let her know that the ESC suggests a May First Friday Healthy Habitat event.

Invasive Plant Removal

Melissa reported on the January 17, 2007 meeting of the Invasive Plant Removal Task Force. On March 31, there will be an invasive plant removal event at the Hamlett Track. Patrick Donnelley, of St. James Boy Scout Troop 681, has proposed that the event serve as his Eagle Scout project. Other Troop 681 members will join him in removing invasive plants and mulching.

Action: At the suggestion of the ESC, and in light of this upcoming event, Kathy will ask City staff for the status of the Hamlett Track Master Plan.

9. Announcements

Kathy will be conducting a training session for new team leaders of the Water Stewardship Livable Neighborhood Program. She said that currently the City has 18 teams.

Ralph mentioned that with Ida Peterson's resignation from the ESC, her priority action items need to be assigned to ESC members. He asked for volunteers. Juanita volunteered to take Daylighting and Nancy volunteered to take Watershed Management Plan Review.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next ESC meeting will be **February 15, 2007**.

11. Adjournment

Ralph adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sam Beatty.